

PRAISE & PRAYER



Students from every IFES movement will gather to pray on 16 October

**FAR AND
NEAR.**

WORLD STUDENT DAY

Every year on World Student Day, our movement unites in prayer for what God is doing in student ministry around the world. This year's theme is 'Far and Near.' COVID-19 will mean that education looks different for students in many countries this year. In so many cases, local and international students who looked forward to being together for on-campus education will wrestle with the reality of being far away and limited mostly to online engagement.

In Christ we know that we remain one body, united in him no matter where we are. We know that he is near to us, no matter how far we are from each other and from the lives that we thought we would be living this year. Most of all, we know that his mission as expressed in Eph 2 will continue: to bring those who are 'far off,' near to him.

So on 16 October, join us in praying for students adapting to education in a pandemic, and for students and staff sharing Christ in these rapidly shifting circumstances. Visit worldstudentday.org and follow [#ifeswsd](https://twitter.com/ifeswsd) on social media for ideas

and inspiration. Read on for examples of how IFES movements are bringing Christ near to those who do not know him and inspiring and equipping more students to reach out.

"Before R came to study Construction Management, he hadn't spent one night away from his Indian family. Within a week, in-person classes were replaced by on-line learning as students became locked down in their homes. All ten students in his flat lost or were unable to find jobs to earn money for rent and food. We began to realise that he and other international students were going hungry. We put out requests for groceries. Immediately, donations came pouring in and we had quantities beyond our imagination. This was the body of Christ at work. R responded to the Christian Union's offer of a care pack and later, food. Each food pack contained information about FOCUS (our international student ministry) and a gospel. R and his housemates were grateful. One keeps the letter we wrote as a memory, because he loves the words of 1 Jn 4:19, 'We love because he first loved us.'"

DAVE LUIS, AFES AUSTRALIA STAFF



#ifeswsd 2019 GBU Italy students gathered in Venice



#ifeswsd 2019 Compa Mexico students in Nuevo Leon learned about ministry elsewhere



WORLD STUDENT DAY continued...

While students are far from campus, GBU Rwanda have moved evangelism training online. They have used Scriptures like 2 Tim 4:2 to inspire students to share their testimonies using social media, messaging apps and radio with friends and classmates. Similar tools are being used for ongoing discipleship of existing students and those who want to know more or have chosen to follow Christ.

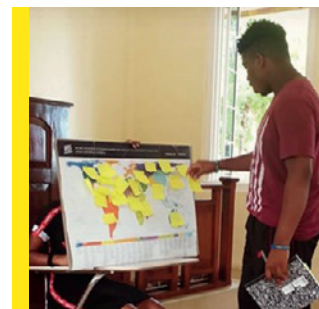
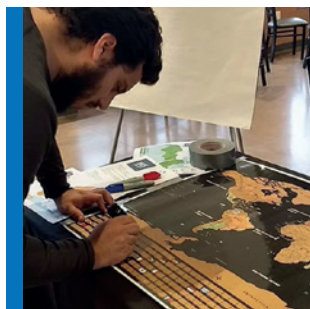
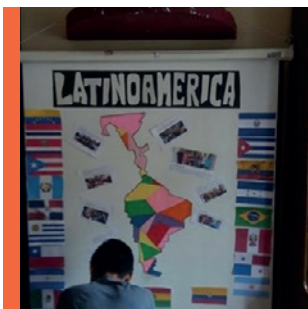
"This semester I shared little of God's love and hope among my classmates. But during the time of virtual classes, I established better interpersonal relationships with them. That brought me closer and some came to online church services. This semester has been a blessing and a profound change in the perspective of the importance of student work and the work of the staff team who have been such a blessing to me."

BANI, COMPA MEXICO STUDENT

"I am excited by reports from Eurasia about how students who have gone home to their Muslim majority families are being a witness in ways they hadn't before."

KEVIN VAN HORNE

Please give thanks for each of these stories, and pray with us on 16 October for students across the IFES world as they reach out to those near and far with the Good News of Christ.



#ifeswsd 2019 (from left to right) ISCF Grenada international students prayer meeting; CCU Bolivia in Cochabamba prayed for others in Latin America; Prayer station at InterVarsity/USA Catalyst conference; CECE prayer meeting in Quito, Ecuador; UCCF Jamaica students at UTECH prayed for the world

IFES PEOPLE: KEVIN VAN HORNE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IFES/USA

Kevin joined IFES/USA on 1 July from InterVarsity/USA, having also worked with IFES Eurasia, in the IFES movement in Moldova, and with other ministries in Ukraine and Russia. Born in California, Kevin met his wife Tanya when they served together in Russia. They have two student-age children.

Kevin is excited about his new role and the opportunity to share with more people what God is doing in student ministry: "IFES is such a rich, beautiful and diverse fellowship. In the divided world we live in, fractured by religious, political, cultural divisions, IFES is what it looks like when the globe comes together. In Eurasia I have seen people from countries at war dance together and highlight their forgiveness and acceptance of each other - a witness to the world. God's kingdom is growing outside of North America and Europe, there are tremendous things happening, young leaders growing up. I want to be about enabling all of us to work together to see them empowered, encouraged and given the platform to use their God given gifts to transform their countries. I see how IFES works, I see the difference that it makes, not only in individuals, but in communities, cultures and countries. I know there are a lot of people who want to be involved in ministry like that and I am excited to invite them."

Please pray for Kevin as he settles into his role. He asks us to pray for him and his wife Tanya, who continues to work with InterVarsity/USA, as they adjust to working on separate teams for the first time since 1993. He also asks for prayer for IFES globally to work in growing unity in a time of organisational transition and global uncertainty.



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